

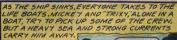




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MICKEY, A 16 YEAR OLD BOY, EXPERT AT TRICKS AND MAGIC, IS ADVENTURE BOUND WITH HIS DOG "TRICKY," ON A FREIGHTER IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC. THE BIG SHIP STRIKES A FLOATING MINE!







HOURS LATER, MICKEY 15 HEADED FOR WHAT APPEARED TO BE ANOTHER BOAT, BUT AS DAWN BREAKS, THE BOAT TURNS OUT TO BE TREES ON AN ISLAND



EXHAUSTED, MICKEY APPROA-CHES THE ISLAND AS HIS BOAT IS GROUNDED ON A CORAL REEF, THE Y SWIM FOR SHORE.











TIED BY THE NATIVES, THERE-FOR, WHEN ME RELAXED THE ROPE WAS LOOSE ENOUGH TO













REPEATING THE PROCEEDURE EACH TIME WITH PRESTO, MICKE'S THEOWS ONE COCONUT AFTER AN-OTHER TO THE WITH DOCTOR WHO IS VERY MUCH PRIGHTENED BY THIS WHITE BOY WHO MAKES COCONUTS APPEAR FROM NO-

















IMPRESSED BY THE

COCONUT TRICK, THE



































THE PLANE LANDS, THE CREW COMES ASHORE AND GREETINGS ARE IN























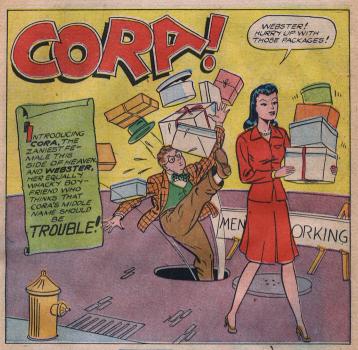




























































THEN
WHY DID
YOU COME
BACK?



MY DRESS, STUPID! I LEFT IT HERE IN A BOX!

OH, THAT!
WHY WE
SENT IT BACK
TO THE
DRESS SHOP!
IT SHOULD
BE THERE!

























OU'D never think that The Kid was a prize fighter. He looked like anything but a pug. You might think that maybe he was a choir boy. You don't look for a smooth baby face, crinkly blonde hair, and wide blue eyes on a lea

But The Kid was a fighter, and a darned good one. His rapier-like left, and his sharp, choppy right crosses were dynamite. His effortless footwork, and his fine timing made him feared by his opponents. With the fans, his trademark was a million dollar smile. Round after round he'd come out of his corner with his handsome face lit up in a white toothed smile. The Kid was strictly a fancy dan. And the fans loved lit, especially the ladies.

Every time he would be billed at the Coliseum, St. Nick's or the Garden, the girls would turn out to root for him. The way they'd greet him, with squeals and screeches, would make you think that "The Voice" was crooning a

swoon tune.

But he had one major fault. He didn't have the killer instinct. Whenever his cascading fists would have an opponent groggy, he didn't close in with the hay maker. In fact, The Kid had a powder puff punch. He just couldn't or wouldn't

try for kayoes.

He had run up a string of impressive victories. Very few of his fights ever ended with The Kid's hair getting mussed. The other boys scarcely ever laid a glove on him. He was that clever. His long, lean body was as agile as a cat's. He'd fight easily, never getting rattled or flustered, and that flicking left would soon torment the other man until it drove him nuts. And The Kid would tipper-tapper himself to another win amid the squeals and howls of his feminine ad-

Once I asked him what he was looking for when he stared at the man whom he would fight. The Kid said, "Something I want to find."

The Kid said, "Something I want to find."
Then he turned his back on me and went on punching the bag.

E WAS hard to know. He'd never talk much All we knew about him was that he lived with his crippled mother, and that he was her sole support. He lived a clean life, and although he liked to be the center of attention, it never went to his head.

I was the boy's second through a lot of fights. I sat in his corner, gave him advice between the rounds, pleaded with him to put the other guy away, and wondered what lay behind that

pleasant smile.

One thing I did notice, and it stuck in my mind. He'd always look his opponent in the face when they went out in the center of the ring for the referee's instruction. He'd stare for a moment as though searching for something in the other's face. For that brief-moment, The Kid's eyes would be hard and brittle. His mouth, unsmiling, would become a grim line. His baby face would turn into a mask of hate. Then it would be gone in a flash. His boyish smile would spread, and once more he'd look like a choir boy, full of youth and innocence.

He was one of a string of lightweights owned by Robin Mulrooney. With the other scrappers he did his training at Mulrooney's big farm.

ULROONEY had big hopes for The Kid.
He kind of hoped that he would make a
champ out of the lad. But first he would
have to prove that he was more than a fancy
fighter. He'd have to prove that he could punch.
I knew that the boy had a terrific punch. He
packed dynamite in both fists. But he wouldn't
show it in the ring.

"Kid," I pleaded with him, "you can punch. What are you saving it for?"

"I know for what," was his answer.

We booked a lot of fights for The Kid. He was eager to make dough, and he turned down nothing. One night he'd fight in the Garden and the next at some tank town club. Once he told me that he wanted to make the dough for an operation on his mother. Always it was the same story. He'd study his opponent's face, dance around him, smother him with flying leather, and win another easy victory. Always smilling, always holding back the knockout punch. The punch he was saving.

Our schedule called for him to do a series of bouts in some Pennsylvania tank towns. Towns where a classy scrapper like The Kid had no business showing. But he was after the long green, and Mulrooney knew what the lad wanted

the money for, so he didn't say no.

ELL, we pulled into a little fight club on the outskirts of Scranton. The dressing rooms were dingy and dirty. It was a rotten club. The Kid looked out of place in the dismal dressing room. But without a word he got into his fight togs. Straddling a bench, he held his hands out for me to bandage them. I was busy doing that, when somebody rapped on the door. I yelled for whoever it was to come in. A big fat man smoking a chewed up cigar walked into the dressing soom. We both looked at him. The man pushed a beat up old felt hat on the back of his head and spoke:

"I'm Nat Robinson, what runs this club. I got sometin' ta ast you guys. Itsa favor." His voice was raspy, like a record when the phonograph needle needs changing.

"What?" I asked, continuing with the band-

ages.

"Well, Wildcat Peters, what was supposed to fight yer boy can't fight. He busted a mitt. So I wanta put in a sub." He paused, knowing well that he had to give us at least 24 hours notice, according to the boxing laws before making a substitution.

"Who do you have in mind?" I queried.

"Sailor Russel." Robinson removed the cigar and looked at me.

I knew that Sailor Russel was an old-timer, with a long unsavory record of dirty fighting. He'd had his license revoked more than once. He thought nothing of gouging, or butting. But before I could say anything. The Kid spoke up.

"I don't care who I fight. I want to fight to-

night, and I want my money."

"You'll get yer dough, Kid" Robinson put the cigar back in his mouth and walked out.

I tried to tell The Kid that he would have his

I tried to tell The Kid that he would have his hands full with Russel.

"He's dirty. He can punch like a mule. He might hurt you. You know you don't have to go ahead with this," I argued.

The Kid smiled at me . I knew he had his mind made up, and that was that.

PRETTY soon it was fight time. We walked up the rickety stairs into the arena. The club was filled with smoke. Everywhere men packed the seats of the dingy fight arena. It was a far cry from the swank of the Garden.

The Kid smiled, and as he stood in his corner he seemed more out of place than ever in the blue smoke haze of the arc lights. A roar went up from raucous, husky throats as Sailor Russel shuffled into the ring. He was a solid, well built man with a pug's face. Battered nose, cauliflower ears, and pig eyes marked him with the stamp of his profession.

I was talking to The Kid when he saw Russel. His whole body tensed. I could feel his muscles go taut under my fingers. His eyes pin-pointed into slits of hate. His mouth grew thin, cruel. it was the same expression I had seen flit across the boy's face many times. But this time it didn't disappear.

As the two fighters came together in the center of the ring. The Kid didn't take his eyes from the other's brutal face. They touched gloves, and at the bell, my boy went out like a cyclone. His gloves whipped through the air so fast that your eyes couldn't follow them. He battered Russel mercilessly.

The older man tried to stem the tide, but The Kid's fists thudded their tatoo on his face and body. The crowd went wild. I was surprised. This was not the way The Kid fought. Then I saw his face. Cold vicious hatred was written on it. He was not smiling. His boyish face was a mask of fury. Mercilessly he pounded away. His blows were cruel and powerful. The Sailor's head rocked crazily under the impact. His knees buckled and his eyes went glassy. Still The Kid pounded and pounded until he was covered with Russel's blood. He pushed Russel against the ropes, and holding him upright with his left hand slugged him again and again with his right. The astonished referee tried to break in. but The Kid pushed him aside. He punched and pounded until the Sailor fell heavily to the canvas. The blood-thirsty crowd was satisfied. It had seen enough blood A count wasn't necessary. Sailor was out.

HEY carried Sailor away, a limp, quivering mass of flesh. He was completely beaten. The Kid, his face soft and smiling again walked jauntily to the dressing room. I followed him.

"Kid", I said, "I ain't never seen you like this. What happened? You almost killed that guy." "I don't care if I did," he said, "he needs killing."

"Do you know him?"

"Know him. I ought to. He's my brother. Ten years ago, he ran away from home. I was a kid then. But before he ran away—he—". The Kid stopped and looked at me. "He cleaned out Mom's rent money. She caught him and when she tried to stop him, he knocked her down. She's been a cripple ever since. He did something to her spine. I swore that I'd pay him back. You see I knew he was a fighter. I knew that some day I'd meet him. That's why I never tried for kayoes. I don't like fighting—but with him it was different. I swore I'd get him."

The Kid smiled at me, and walked into the shower. He was a strange guy. You'd never think he belonged in the fight game, with that sweet smile and that baby face.

THE END



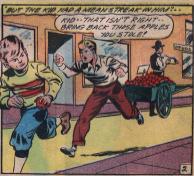


























JIM--I-I'VE GOT TO

FIND THE KID AND STOP HIM MYSELF!











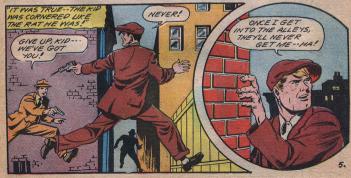
















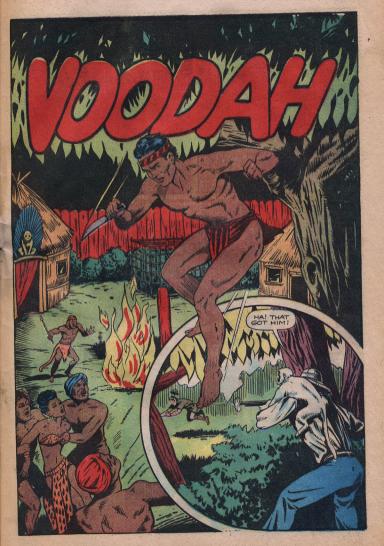






"BLOOF REVENGE"
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TO CRIME DOES
NOT PAY!!!

















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